

**1. AMENDMENTS IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

*Please amend the specification as follows:*

**At page 6, line 21,**

Even more preferably the compound has a receptor affinity  $IC_{50} < 25 \mu M$ , and an antagonist potency  $IC_{50} < 1 \mu M$ .

**At page 10, lines 19-20,**

An “uncommon” amino acid includes, but is not restricted to, D-amino acids, homo-amino acids, N-alkyl amino acids, dehydroamino acids, aromatic amino acids other than phenylalanine, tyrosine and tryptophan, ortho-, meta- or para-aminobenzoic acid, ornithine, citrulline, canavanine, norleucine, ~~γ~~-glutamic acid, aminobutyric acid, L-fluorenylalanine, L-3-benzothienylalanine, and ~~α, α~~-disubstituted α, α-disubstituted amino acids.

**At page 22, line 2,**

The level of colon oedema, neutrophil accumulation and colon ~~[[TNF-α]]~~ TNF-α levels were also significantly reduced.

**At page 24, line 1,**

The cyclic compounds described in this specification are stable to proteolytic degradation for at least several hours at ~~[[37°C]]~~ 37°C in human blood or plasma, in human or rat gastric juices, or in the presence of digestive enzymes such as pepsin, trypsin and chymotrypsin.